



Montana Public Service Commission

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PSC Considers Future Regulation of Qwest

The Public Service Commission (PSC) is holding a hearing this week regarding Qwest's proposal for an Alternative Form of Regulation (AFOR). The November 5 hearing begins at 1:00 pm in the PSC offices and may extend up to two more days.

As proposed, the AFOR would be in effect 5 years and covers significant topics such as Qwest capping rate prices, building additional infrastructure, and eliminating zone charges. The AFOR could also resolve a 2005 investigation of the company's use of federal Universal Service Funds, and a 2006 complaint regarding unjust rates. The outcome of the hearing has the potential to affect all of Qwest's approximately 300,000 Montana customers.

The hearing can be viewed live via the Internet on the PSC's website at <http://psc.mt.gov/eDocs/#Calendars> and will also be archived for viewing later on the same site. The Commission's office is located at 1701 Prospect Avenue in Helena. Additional information related to these issues can be found on the PSC site under Dockets D2008.1.6, D2006.10.143, and D2005.6.105.

Made up of 5 elected commissioners, the PSC works to ensure that Montanans receive safe and reliable service from regulated public utilities while paying reasonable rates. Utilities regulated by the PSC generally include private investor-owned natural gas, electric, telephone, water, and sewer companies. In addition, the PSC regulates certain motor carriers, and oversees natural gas pipeline safety and intrastate railroad safety.

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